THE EXCITER

Formerly Called Gutter Dope, Established in 1934.

Published Free of Charge Monthly by The San Antonio Radio Club.

VOL. 3, NO. 4 APRIL, 1960 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

VHF AND UP

F2 50 mc. paths to South America opened up several times during the month. On 2 Mar. 60, K5RGO worked LU7DEQ at 1300 CST. Again on 12 March DEQ was worked by K5OOJ and RGO at 1500. Others in town worked LU4DFN. So. America sigs were heard again by OOJ on 16 Mar.

19 March brought in HC1FS, Quito, when Fred was worked by K5WIB, OOJ and heard by RGO from 1400 to 1500.

TV signals from Europe made one last gasp when Caen, France, (41.25 mc) and BBC, London, (41.5 mc) sneaked through at 0930 on 27 Feb. These signals are gone for sure, perhaps to come back in during Oct. 60, perhaps not for many years.

Pioneer V, launched on 11 Mar. 60 to orbit around the sun, transmits on 378 mc. but is difficult to catch because its transmitter is turned on by command for just about 15 min. each hour. So, in addition to not having enough antenna gain, the average listener does not know when to listen in time nor where to listen in space. It's like playing 3 dimension checkers and even the big 250 ft. dish in England won't be able to get the signal after 5 months.

The receiver in the sun's 4th known artificial planet (also Pioneer IV, Lunik I and III) will have to remain active for 3-5 yrs. waiting for a signal from earth to turn its transmitter on when it again comes within 50 million miles (4 light minutes) of earth.

A 5 watt TX is used close in (2M miles) and a 150 watt TX is used out to 50M miles, powered by batteries charged from the paddle-wheel solar cells.

A new look at Sputnik III shows it due to fall around 24 Mar. '60. Erratic dits with a strong back-wave are still received on 20.005 mc. by the writer on close passes.

The recent foggy weather brought on some good ducting (it should be ducking, for all the fog is worth) and many of the 50 mc. gang report working up to Taylor and regularly down to the Valley.

According to a recent article in TIME, two east coast fellows were successful in bouncing 21 mc. CW signals of the ionized trail of one of the passing satellites. While the feat is still subject to some scrutiny as to how it happened, it must be recorded that radio amateurs were the first to communicate in this manner. There is still much to be done in this amazing world of ours. Regards,

Cal Graf, W5LFM

D X NOTES

Hi gang! The second half of the ARRL DX Contest (CW), is in full swing as this is being written. Conditions have been fine, as they were also during the last half of the Fone contest. W5EJT called between new-ones to report getting a 5-9-9- report from KAOIK on Iwo Jima off the back of his beam.

Incidentally; fone, especially SSB, is becoming increasingly more important in the realms of DX. Many DX-peditions lately have been on SSB only; and the choice rareities now on SSB include such exotic DX as EAOAC, AP2CR, SV1AE, SU1MS, HZ1AB, FB8CJ, and TA3GI.

The expansion of the U.S. 20 meter fone band from 14200 to 14350 kcs, effective March 10th, has caused some temporary confusion in SSB DX-ing. Nearly all of the DX SSB stations are now transmitting between 14100 and

14200 kcs, and announcing their listening frequencies. No particular band-use habit has yet been evolved; but the old arrangement of AM on the low end and SSB on the high end of the U.S. fone sub-band seems changing; and much SSB operation is now heard just above 14200 kcs.

DX Question box.

What is the principle ingredient of DX success? High Power? An antenna farm? Staying up all hours of the night?

Any or all of these, at times will help but I would say that persistence is the one most essential ingredient in the DX success formula. Sooner or later that rare one will hear you, and you can make it easier by transmitting where he is listening. A big boost in making your operating time count is the check one of the weekly DX Bulletins like that of the West Gulf DX Club for time and station.

73 and DX, Len

MOBILE

The Six Meter Club held a transmitter hunt Feb. 28th. Six hunters and their navigators participated with K5HVC Bert coming in first. His navigator was Chuck, K5AIU. Their next hunt will be held in March with K5HVC hiding.

The regular monthly transmitter hunt for the San Antonio Radio Club was cancelled for this month due to most of the mobiles participating in furnishing communications for the Boat Races out at Medina Lake. The fellows reported that they really had a swell time.

Mobile activity on 75 has been poor lately, but there have been quite a few on 40. Some of the active mobiles on 40 are K5OCW Eddie, K5DKM Paul, W5OMR Ed, and K5BHU Henry. With the nice weather finally getting here it's time to tune up that rig and enjoy mobiling again.

73's Gene W5EJT

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TRANSISTOR LECTURE SERIES

The series of lectures on Transistors sponsored jointly by St. Mary's U. The I.R.E., and Texas Instruments Co. is really being well received. They are really packing them in the Gym at St. Mary's U. There were about seven hundred people present for the first lecture, and about five hundred present for the next two.

This series is offered by the sponsors as a ½ ib; oc servoce venture to help teachers, engineers, amateurs, and technicians of the area to understand and apply transistors.

Each lecturer of the series will be a highly qualified scientist or engineer of Texas Instruments Company, Dallas, one of the nation's largest research and manufacturing groups in the semiconductor business. The lecture on Monday, April 4, will be "Network Delign, Feedback Amplifiers, Power Converters, and D.C. Amplifiers." By W. E. Chrisman, Jr.

The lecture for Monday, April 11, will be "Digital and pulse circuts" by Harvey Cragon.

The lecture for Monday, April 18, will be "Oscilators and R. F. Circuitry" by Glenn E. Penisten.

These lectures are really a must. We'll see you there.

MEETINGS

The meetings have been a little better lately at The Gunter, maybe with the weather clearing up a little bit, things will continue to look up.

The parts houses have really been going all out in furnishing door prizes to the club to be given out at the meetings. These people would like to know that you appreciate their efforts, so whenever you win a door prize at one of the meetings, go by and thank the people that donated the door prize. Robbie Rice K5SJB is really doing a fine job of rounding up the door prizes

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for the club meetings.

The Meetings are held at The Gunter Hotel on the First and Third Friday Nights of each month starting promptly at 8 P.M. Everyone is cordially invited to attend. You don't have to be a member to attend.

For bigger and better Surplus buys at prices that are right for "You", the place is Tommy's Hide-a-way at 2407 Blanco Road. Come by and see all the goodies that can be had in U.S. surplus.

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